



NEWS RELEASE

October 21, 2002

1.8 Million in Marijuana and Cache of Weapons Seized

MCALLEN, Texas – Border Patrol Agents of the Rio Grande City Border Patrol Station seized 2,269 pounds of marijuana valued at \$1,341,400 and a cache of weapons over the weekend.

On October 18, 2002, at approximately 4:45 p.m., Agents of the Rio Grande City Border Patrol Station observed a brown 1996 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup leaving the area near Artecitas Farms near La Grulla, Texas. The driver of the pickup abandoned his pickup after observing the marked Border Patrol Unit approaching his location. The driver of the pickup eluded agents. The pickup was discovered abandoned and found to contain 21 bundles of marijuana weighing a total of 915 pounds. The marijuana is valued at \$732,000.

Later that same evening, at approximately 10:30 p.m., Rio Grande City Border Patrol Agents investigating some suspicious tracks, foiled another narcotics smuggling operations, after discovering three bundles of marijuana weighing a total of 91 pounds. Upon approaching the riverbank, agents observed 2 large inflatable rafts crossing the Rio Grande River back to Mexico. The rafts were loaded with several large bundles believed to be more narcotics. Agents continued to search the immediate area for more narcotics or suspects. During the search agents discovered 3 more bundles wrapped in bed sheets. A 9mm U.S. carbine, a .223 caliber Colt AR-15 assault rifle, a .223 Winchester Rifle, a 7mm Russian SKS assault rifle with bayonet, along with other weapons and ammunition were found wrapped within the bedsheets. The marijuana is valued at \$72,800.

On October 19, 2002, agents of the Rio Grande City Border Patrol Station seized another 1,263 pounds of marijuana valued at \$1,010,400.

At approximately 2:00 p.m., agents working near Fronton, Texas observed a brown 1979 Ford F-150 pickup coming from the river. The driver accelerated after observing the marked Border Patrol Unit. The driver eluded agents, but his abandoned vehicle was discovered within the Roma, Texas city limits a short time later. The abandoned pickup was found with 72 large bundles, identified as marijuana, weighing a total of 1,263 pounds. No arrests were made.

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